Appln No.: 09/678,357
Amendment Dated: May 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2003

<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing possible presence of gastritis in a human by evaluating a blood sample, comprising the steps of:

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for H,K-ATPase,

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for Helicobacter pylori,

assaying the blood sample for the concentration of pepsinogen I, and

comparing the presence of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration to the respective values of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen concentration of a normal population, <u>and</u>

<u>further comprising the steps of multiplying the level of pepsinogen I by the level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies to get a number, and comparing the number to a number calculated similarly for the normal population.</u>

wherein levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, ~~and~~ pepsinogen I concentration in the sample <u>and the number</u> that are different from the respective values in the normal population ~~is~~ ~~are~~ indicative of gastritis.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of determining the levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I, comprises performing immunoassays for detecting H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ <u>14</u>, wherein a lowered level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of corpus atrophy.

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19.   (currently amended) The method according to ~~16~~ 14, wherein an increased level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of a corpus gastritis, without any autoimmunity involved.

20.   (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein a level of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

21.   (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein a level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum, or pangastritis.

22.   (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein increased levels of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

23.   (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

24.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein measured levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than levels in a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

25.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a lowered level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of corpus atrophy.

26.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein an increased level of pepsinogen I concentration is indicative of a corpus gastritis, without any autoimmunity involved.

27.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a level of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

28.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum, or pangastritis.

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29.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein increased levels of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

30.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

31.   (canceled)

32.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein measured levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than levels in a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

33-38. (canceled)

39.   A kit for screening for gastritis comprising reagents suitable for detecting H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration.

40.   The kit according to claim 39, wherein the reagents comprise pepsinogen I antibodies, H,K-ATPase and Helicobacter pylori proteins or peptides thereof.

41.   The kit according to claim 39, wherein the reagents comprise pepsinogen I, H,K-ATPase and Helicobacter pylori antigens immobilized on a solid support.

42.   The kit according to claim 41, further comprising labelled anti-human antibodies.

43.   The kit according to claim 39, wherein the reagents are provided in amounts sufficient to perform substantially equal numbers of assays to detect H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration.